

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The amendments to the claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (New) A cage for inclined ball bearings, comprising:

a side wall and a side rim spaced axially apart, interconnected by webs and defining ball pockets, the side wall having an approximately uniform wall thickness, an arched portion of the side wall defining each of the ball pockets and being arched in an axial direction from the webs;

ribs distributed circumferentially around the cage, each of the ribs protruding in an axial direction from a respective one of the webs and each of the ribs connects one arched portion of the side wall defining a ball pocket to an adjacent arched portion of the side wall defining an adjacent ball pocket on the circumferential side of the cage, and each of the ribs protruding axially to an equal extent as the arched portions of the side wall defining each of the ball pockets.

19. (New) A cage of Claim 18, wherein

each of the ribs are oriented in the circumferential direction and extend in a curved manner in the circumferential direction.

20. (New) The cage of Claim 19, wherein

a gap is formed between adjacent arched portions of the side wall and each gap is delimited radially towards a rotational axis of the cage by one of the ribs.

21. (New) The cage of Claim 20, wherein

each of the ribs has a rib face facing the rotational axis and the rib face widening in the circumferential direction with increased axially spacing from the one of the webs.

22. (New) The cage of Claim 18, wherein

each of the ribs is spaced a radial distance from a rotational axis of the cage that is no greater than a smallest radial spacing of each of the webs from the rotational axis of the cage.

23. (New) The cage of Claim 18, wherein

the side rim is on the circumferential side of the cage.

24. (New) The cage of Claim 23, wherein

the side rim is spaced a radial distance from a rotational axis of the cage greater than a greatest radial spacing of the side wall from the rotational axis of the cage.

25. (New) The cage of Claim 18, further comprising:

retaining lugs distributed circumferentially around the cage, one of the retaining lugs extending axially from the arched portions of the side wall defining each of the ball pockets.

26. (New) The cage of Claim 25, wherein

each arched portion of the side wall defining a ball pocket has a groove, each groove being delimited in the direction of a rotational axis of the cage by one of the retaining lugs.

27. (New) The cage of Claim 26, wherein

each groove has a radius when viewed in a longitudinal section along a rotational axis of the cage.

28. (New) The cage of Claim 26, wherein

each groove is delimited radially outwardly by the arched portions of the side wall defining a ball pocket and two adjacent ribs which are separated from one another in a circumferential direction by the arched portion of the side wall.

29. (New) The cage of Claim 26, wherein

the grooves are delimited in pairs, radially outwardly by one of the ribs.

30. (New) The cage of Claim 25, wherein

each of the retaining lugs protrudes axially at most to the arched portion of the side wall defining the ball pocket.

31. (New) The cage of Claim 25, wherein

a circumferential gap is formed between adjacent retaining lugs, each circumferential gap being delimited radially outwardly by one of the webs and one of the ribs.

32. (New) The cage of Claim 25, wherein

each of the retaining lugs has flanks which face a circumferential direction and are inclined with respect to one another.

33. (New) The cage of Claim 32, wherein

a circumferential gap is formed between flanks of adjacent retaining lugs, and the circumferential gap increases in size in a direction of the rotational axis of the cage.

34. (New) The cage of Claim 32, wherein

the flanks are inclined by an angle with respect to an imaginary plane which emanates from and is aligned with a rotational axis of the cage.